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made man of our day is, with reference to the more abstruse matters of science, in the position of the instructed man of former times, whose maturity was contemporary with great discoveries in science, and with whom later instruction could not efface the prepossessions of an earlier education. To set out in the study of nature with the guidance of the results already reached has the supreme advantage of avoiding that greatest obstacle in the path of learning, the necessity of retracing our steps, and remodelling our fundamental ideas. If our author had had this advantage, we are sure, from the original mental power which his book discloses, that the book would not have been written, or else would have been made much more worthy of attention from students in science.

18. — *Reply to Hon. Charles G. Loring, upon Reconstruction.* By JOHN S. WRIGHT of Illinois. Boston: A. Williams & Co. 8vo. pp. 189.

IT is impossible to speak at length of Mr. Wright's work, for not only is the pamphlet before us but a small part of his contemplated work, but it is not the opening part thereof. It is "No. II." of his "Political Tracts," publications likely to do good in promoting the dissemination of useful knowledge, but which are *not* likely to have much effect on the settlement of the reconstruction question, as that, judging from present appearances, will be disposed of before half the series shall have been printed and put in circulation. Nor do we think there is much to regret in this. The reconstruction question is of a thoroughly practical character, and is fast settling itself under the guidance of Congress, as prepared and set forth in what is known as the Military Reconstruction Act. With the return of the excluded States all discussion of the general question must cease, considered as a practical matter; and in that case, to write on it or to read works on it would be labor and study of no value, and would rank with those ingenious discussions and inquiries that show how the battle of Waterloo might have been won by the French, had they not lost it. We live rapidly in these times, and books that concern questions of pressing moment soon lose their interest, as action supersedes discussion. To such books Mr. Wright's pamphlets belong; and though they have a certain attraction now, they must soon be classed with other works that treat of the best manner of settling matters that have an obstinate way of settling themselves, in utter disregard of the arguments of ingenious speculators.